

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 ACDA-05 SSO-00

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R 071546Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8505

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY

SUBJECT: MARGALIT ARTICLES: PERES' VIEWS ON POSSIBLE ISRAELI
INITIATIVES RE GOLAN HEIGHTS

REF: TEL AVIV 5489

1. WE WISH TO CALL DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO FOLLOW
EXTRACTFROM OCTOBER 3 ARTICLE BY WASHINGTON BASED
HAARETZ CORRESPONDNET DAN MARGALIT RE POSSIBLE ISRAELI
GESTURE ON GOLANHEIGHTS " WHILE THE MINISER OF DEFENSE THINKS THAT
AN INTERIM SETTLEMEN HAS GREATER CHANCES THAN AN OVERALL
SETTLEMENT ON THE GOLAN, HE IS PREPARED TO CONSIER THE
ABADNONMENT OF THE KUNEITRA HILLS IF WARNING STATIONS ARE
SET UP ON THEM." MARGALIT THE ADDS IN PARETNHESES---
" ISRAELI? U.S.? JOINT STATIONS?".

2. IN COURSE OF RECENT CONVERSATION, HAARETZ MILITARY
CORRESPONDENT ZEV SCHIFF HAS CALLED THIS SENTENCETO OUR
ATTENTION, INTERPRETING IT AS SUGGESTON BY PERS THAT
ISRAELI MIGHTBE PREPARED TO MAKE UNILATERAL GESTURE
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OF WITHDRAWAL FROM KUNEITA HILLS SHORTLY BEFORE EXPIRA-

TIO OF UNDOF MANDATE ON NOVEMBER 30. SCHIFF SAID THAT REASONING BEHIND SUCH A PROPOSAL WAS TWOFOLD: A) A RECOGNITION THAT NO BASIS EXISTS AT PRESENT FOR A POLITICAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA, BUT THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO KEEP THE DIPLOMATIC MOMENTUM ALIVE; AND B) AWARENESS THAT THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT NEEDS "FUEL"--I.E., SOME DEVELOPMENT ON THE NORTH FRONT WHICH WILL ENABLE SADAT TO GO AHEAD WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERIM AGREEMENT.

3. WE ALSO NOTE THAT THIS IS SECOND TIME THAT MARGALIT HAS FLOATED IDEA OF POSSIBLE UNILATERAL GESTURE ON GOLAN IN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS. ON AUGUST 20 HE REPORTED THAT THERE WAS "ORAL UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN ISRAEL AND U.S. TO THIS EFFECT, ALTHOUGH NO MENTION OF IT WOULD BE MADE IN BILATERAL UNDERSTANDINGS CONNECTED WITH INTERIM AGREEMENT. MARGALIT ON SEPTEMBER 24 FURTHER REPORTED THAT PERES, IN WASHINGTON TALKS, HAD ALSO PUT FORWARD "PERSONAL PROPOSAL" TO REPLACE UNDOF WITH "OBSERVERS" (PRESUMABLY IN REFERENCE IS TO UNTSO), AND THAT THIS WOULD RELEASE THE PARTIES FROM TENSIONS ACCOMPANYING PERIODIC RENEWAL OF UNDOF MANDATE.
TOON

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